

Appln. No. 10/690,141

Attorney Docket No. 5709-167

II. Remarks

Claims 1 through 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 19 have been amended and claims 4, 9, 14 through 18 and 22 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added. Hence, claims 1 through 3, 5 through 8, 10 through 13, 19 through 21, 23 and 24 remain under consideration.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 through 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner took issue with the term "visible" which was added in the previous Amendment to characterize the veneer. In view of the amendments to claim 1 undertaken herein, the reference to visibility of the veneer has been removed. Accordingly, this basis of rejection has been overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 8, 10, 12 through 15, 17 through 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,183,613 issued to Edwards (Edwards) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,733,846 issued to Ruepping (Ruepping).

Edwards discloses a method for the manufacture of friction coatings for elastomeric substrates, for example, glass run channel gaskets. Edwards is relied upon for its disclosure of the elastomer EPDM. The relevance of this reference, however, is limited to this feature as Edwards only discloses EPDM in conjunction with a glass run gasket which is at least partially exposed to the atmosphere and thus must exhibit good weathering characteristics and must be flexible to receive the opening and closing window glass. The gasket includes a polyolefin compound adhered to EPDM flanges which provides a low friction, abrasion resistant coating to the surfaces of the gasket which contact the window glass.

Edwards has been combined with Ruepping which teaches a UV curable elastomer composition for use as gaskets for sealing internal combustion engine

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components such as rocker covers, air intake manifolds and other components typically now made of high performance thermoplastic materials. Ruepping shows that it is desirable to produce the elastomeric sealer or gasket on or within a groove in the product which is referred to as "gasketing in place." The UV curable gasket composition includes an elastomer, a multi-functional cross-linking agent and a UV initiator. The composition may contain 30 to 70 weight percent ethylene, 25 to 65 weight percent acrylate or vinyl ester, 2 to 10 weight percent glycidyl acrylate or methacrylate and 0 to 15 weight percent carbon monoxide. Ruepping therefore does not cure the defects of the Edwards reference and there is clearly no motivation or suggestion in the references to combine them as the Examiner has done.

Claims 3, 11, 16 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards in view of Ruepping as applied to claims 1, 2 5 through 8, 10, 12 through 15, 17 through 20, 23 and 24 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,849,310 issued to Willett.

Willett is relied upon for its disclosure of a colorable exterior coating. The coating of Willett, however, is achieved by applying a co-liquefied powder coating to surfaces of a composite strip. Willett explains that such powder coatings are finely ground plastic particles including a resin, cross-linked or thermoset powders, pigments, extenders and various flow additives and fillers which achieve specific properties. Such powder coatings are applied and then cured typically in an oven.

The chemistry and application process of Willett are distinct from the teachings of the other references as well as Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, it is unclear how Willett's teachings can be combined with the other references and it certainly does not render claims 3, 11, 16 and 21 obvious. Hence, these claims are patentable and should be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the objected to status of claims 4, 9, and 22 and their allowability if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of any base claims. Responsive thereto, Applicants' attorney has amended independent claims 1, 7 and 19 by incorporating therein the limitations of dependent claims 4, 9 and 22, respectively. Given the Examiner's Indication of the objected to status of such claims, it is submitted that independent

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claims 1, 7 and 19, as amended, are allowable. Moreover, claims dependent thereon are likewise allowable.

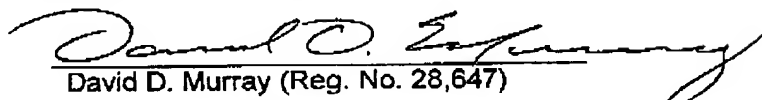
SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 8, 10 through 13, 19 through 21, 23 and 24, as amended, are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

August 9, 2006

Date


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